ELAG 2007: E-learning and its effects on libraries Part 1 – WHAT is e-learning?
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WHO are we?

WHAT have been our experiences with e-learning?

WHAT is e-learning?
What do YOU think?

Some definitions:
UK – Higher Education Academy “Learning facilitated and supported through the use of information and communication technologies”
Martin Jenkins and Janet Hanson, A guide for senior managers: e-learning series No. 1. Learning and Teaching Support Network Generic centre, 2003. Available at:
http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/resources.asp?process=full_record&section=generic&id=326

Wikipedia
Electronic learning or E-learning is a general term used to refer to computer-enhanced learning. It is used interchangeably in so many contexts that it is critical to be clear what one means when one speaks of ‘eLearning’. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E-learning
**Wiktionary**

Also called Computer-Based Training. **E-learning** is a general term that relates to all training that is delivered with the assistance of a computer. Delivery of e-learning can be via CD, the Internet, or shared files on a network. Generally, CBT and E-learning are synonymous, but CBT is the older term, dating from the 1980s. The term E-learning evolved from CBT along with the maturation of the Internet, CDs, and DVDs. E-learning also includes Internet-based Learning, Web-based Learning, and Online Learning.


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**Jay Cross, Internet Time Group – 2000**

Learning on Internet: anytime, anywhere
Web-delivered
Mix of learning methods- virtual classroom, simulation, collaboration
Embraces learning process from assessment to certification
Incorporates management aspects – payment, records of achievement etc
Learner-centric, personalised, 1:1
( accesses via [http://www.e-learningcentre.co.uk/eclipse/Resources/whatise.htm](http://www.e-learningcentre.co.uk/eclipse/Resources/whatise.htm) )

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**Stephen Downes – National Research Council of Canada**

- E-learning mainly takes the form of online courses e.g. the resources distributed by MIT’s [OpenCourseware project](http://ocw.mit.edu). The course is the basic unit of organization.
- Dominant learning technology employed today is a type of system that organizes and delivers online courses—the learning management system (LMS).

[http://elearnmag.org/subpage.cfm?section=articles&article=e=29-1](http://elearnmag.org/subpage.cfm?section=articles&article=e=29-1)

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**LMS/Virtual Learning Environment**

The LMS/VLE takes learning content and organizes it in a standard way, as a course divided into modules and lessons, supported with quizzes, tests and discussions, and in many systems today, integrated into the college or university’s student information system.

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**Examples of VLEs**

- Blackboard – from US. Used in 2200 institutions in 60 countries [http://www.blackboard.com](http://www.blackboard.com)
- Bodington – developed at Leeds Univ. in UK [http://bodington.org/](http://bodington.org/)

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**More VLEs**

- WebCT – acquired by Blackboard in 2006
Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) and e-learning

E-learning can cover a spectrum of activities from the use of technology to support learning as part of a ‘blended’ approach (a combination of traditional and e-learning approaches), to learning that is delivered entirely online. Whatever the technology, however, learning is the vital element.

http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/themes/elearning.aspx

JISC and e-learning

JISC funds a range of programmes, services and activities that promote and support the use of e-learning. The majority of this work is funded under the e-Learning programme, which aims to identify how e-learning can benefit learners, practitioners and educational institutions, and advise on its implementation.

JISC’s e-Learning Programme (2003-9)

AIM: to identify how e-learning can benefit learners, practitioners and educational institutions, and advise on its implementation.

HOW:

- Practitioners developing the confidence and skills to manage and facilitate e-learning in different contexts and with different pedagogical approaches
- A technical infrastructure that supports flexibility, diversity and extendibility
- Easy access to high quality, flexible learning materials
- Effective and responsive e-learning policies, systems and structures in place at local, regional and national level

Other terms and phrases

- Online learning
- Internet learning
- Distributed learning
- Networked learning
- Virtual learning
- Distance learning

Blended learning

“generally used to mean a structured learning process that involves a mixture of learning and teaching activities, including e-learning and face-to-face or telephone contact”

Barbara Allen, Developing the best blend? From blended e-learning to blended learning. Library and Information Update, 6(3) 2007, 26-27